

DENBY DALE
URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year 1939

URBAN DISTRICT OF DENBY DALE.

LIST OF COUNCILLORS

For Year 1939

-:-:-:-

Chairman: H. HINCHLIFFE, Esq. J.P.

Vice-Chairman: H. S. JACKSON, Esq.

J. KENYON, Esq.
H. N. NAYLOR, Esq.
N. IBBOTSON, Esq.
C. H. MOXON, Esq.
H. MATHERS, Esq. J.P.
C. V. RIGBY, Esq.
Major G. TAYLOR,
F. BOOTH, Esq.
G. H. SENIOR, Esq. J.P.

W. A. HEAP, Esq.
E. HIRST, Esq.
H. BEDFORD, Esq.
J. M. DEW, Esq.
H. BATES, Esq.
T. E. FIELD, Esq.
J. WRAY, Esq.
H. MOUNTAIN, Esq.
H. FERGUSON, Esq.

Officers of the Council.

-:-:-:-

Clerk: J. Haigh.

Medical Officer: Dr. D. Bell, M.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector: F. Greenwood, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Surveyor, Water Engineer and Cleansing Superintendent:

E. E. B. Harrison, A.M.I.M.C.E.

Collectors: G. E. Taylor and F. Matthewman.

Council Office: Huddersfield Road, Skelmanthorpe,
Telephone: Skelmanthorpe 3141.

Surveyor's and Sanitary Inspector's Office:
Wakefield Road, Denby Dale,
Telephone: Skelmanthorpe 3101

Medical Officer: The Cliff, Skelmanthorpe,
Telephone: Skelmanthorpe 2239.

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A N N U A L R E P O R T

O F T H E

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

To the Members of the
U R B A N D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L O F D E N B Y D A L E

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st 1939, this being the second Annual Report for the new combined area.

The report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Circular 1961 of the Ministry of Health, and has been curtailed as suggested in the circular.

The portion of the report relating to the Sanitary circumstances of the area has been prepared by the Sanitary Inspector.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

DOUGLAS BELL, M.B.,D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A. - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	10,165 acres
Maximum elevation	1050 ft.
Minimum elevation	283 ft.
Population - Registrar-General's estimate of	
(a) resident population, mid- 1939	9963
(b) average population	9963
Number of inhabited houses	3139
Number of above houses which rank as "working class"	2834
Number of new houses completed in 1939 -	
By the Council .. 15.. Others .. 20..	35
Rateable Value	£34,486/10/0.
Sum represneted by Penny Rate	£140/10/0.

VITAL STATISTICS

	Total	M.	F.	
Live Births (Legitimate	139	70	69	Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population mid- 1939 - 13.9.
(Illegitimate... ..	4	4		
Stillbirths	7	5	2	Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births - 57.5. 46.67.
Deaths	118	64	54	Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population 11.8.

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) : -

	Deaths	Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29 Puerperal sepsis	None	-
No. 30 Other puerperal causes	2	14.3
Total	2	

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age: -

All infants per 1,000 live births	43.1
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births -	43.1
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births -	
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	19
" Measles (all ages)	None
" Whooping Cough (all ages)	None
" Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	None

SECTION B - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Ambulance facilities - For Infectious cases a Motor ambulance is maintained by the Joint Isolation Hospital Committee.

For accident and urgent sickness cases a privately owned motor ambulance serves this area and an adjoining area. It is subsidised by this Council and the adjoining local authority. Its service has been good and reliable, and it is available day and night. There is no charge for conveyance within the area or from the area to the Huddersfield Infirmary, but a charge is made for conveyance to places farther away.

An ambulance maintained by the Huddersfield Infirmary under a Contributory Scheme is also available to contributors at restricted times and for a small charge.

Hospitals - Infectious diseases are treated at the Penistone Joint Isolation Hospital which is situate a short distance outside the area. The hospital is controlled by a joint Committee of representatives of the constituent authorities.

For Smallpox there is a separate small hospital situate in the same neighbourhood and controlled by the same Committee. No change or extension of these premises has taken place during the year.

General and accident cases are received by the Huddersfield Royal Infirmary.

There is no local cottage hospital and there are no maternity homes.

SECTION F - Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

Table I. Shows notifications received of notifiable Diseases (other than tuberculosis).

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	0	-	-
Scarlet Fever	4	4	0
Diphtheria	2	2	-
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	3	3	-
Puerperal Fever	None		
Puerperal Pyrexia	None		
Pneumonia	5	-	
Other diseases generally notifiable (specify disease) Erysipelas	1	-	

TABLE II. Shows the age distribution of the notified Infectious Diseases.

	Under 1	AGE GROUPS											Total
		1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65 & over	
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	4
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	3
Totals	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	5	-	1	-	9

TABLE III - Tuberculosis - New Cases and Mortality

	New cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
Age Periods	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-								
1-								
5-								
15-	1			1				
25-	2	1			1	1		
35-								
45-								
55-								
65 and upwards								
	3	1	-	1	1	1	-	-

Incidence of Infectious Disease

Only sporadic cases have occurred. There has been no epidemic.

War time conditions have had no effect on the incidence of any infectious disease as yet.

SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

DISTRIBUTION

A piped supply distributed by the Council is available throughout the area except for a number of isolated premises. The number of houses connected is 2992 and the number not connected is 147.

ALTERATION TO SUPPLIES

The use of the Rusby Spring as a public supply was discontinued on August 18th of this year upon the completion of a pumping plant installed for the purpose of delivering the Dewsbury & Heckmondwike Water-board's supply into the Rusby Reservoir.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION

Samples have been taken regularly of the water in use and also for observation purposes of the Rusby Springs which have been disused. The following tables show the results of these tests.

Date of Sampling	Jan 17	Jan 31	Feb 14	Feb 28	Mar 14	Mar 28	Apr 18	May 9	May 23	June 7	July 4	July 25	Aug 10	Aug 24	Sep 21	Oct 12	Nov 3	Nov 23	Dec 14
<u>Rusby Reservoir</u> - <u>Old Spring</u> Presumptive B.coli per 100 m.l. Reported as satisfactory	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	0	0	94	0	0	0
<u>Rusby Reservoir</u> - <u>New Wells</u> Presumptive B.coli per 100 m.l. Reported as satisfactory	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	18	0
<u>Rusby & Dowsbury mixed</u> Presumptive B.coli per 100 m.l. Reported as satisfactory	-	0	0	-	0	-	0	0	-	-	-	0	18	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Dowsbury - only</u> Presumptive B.coli per 100 m.l. Reported as satisfactory	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	-
<u>Millbank Reservoir</u> Presumptive B.coli per 100 m.l. Reported as satisfactory	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	160	-	-	-
	-	-	-	Doubt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-ful	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Note:- The use of the Rusby Old Spring was discontinued on August 18th 1939 except as a supply to one residence which has an acquired right to this supply free. The use of the New Wells was discontinued the previous year. Examination of these supplies is continued for observation purposes.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

A number of the outlying parts of the area still remain unsewered or only partially sewerred. No extension of the sewerage system has been carried out but a scheme is in hand for the sewerred of Cuttlehurst Hill in the Clayton West Ward.

There are five separate outfall works for sewage disposal. Minor alterations at one of the outfall works has improved the nature of the effluent with respect to which complaints had been made by the West Riding Rivers Board.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

Very little pollution from domestic sewage occurs. The West Riding Rivers Board have control in the area.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

The Council make a small grant towards the cost of conversion of privy closets. Voluntary conversion has been carried out in a number of cases as a result of this grant. Steady progress is being made with respect to the installation of the water carriage system where the sewers and water supply are suitable for the purpose. The following summary shows the changes in the accommodation which have taken place during the year:-

No. of privies reconstructed - as W.C.s 57; as privies 0.
No of privies abolished - 3.
No. of additional W.C.s for old premises - 16.
No. of W.C.s provided for new houses - 35.

During the previous four years the number of privies converted in the areas now included in the combined area, were:-

1935 - 37; 1936 - 26; 1937 - 64; 1938 - 61.

The accommodation existing at the end of this year is as detailed hereunder:-

Privies with open middens	33
Privies with covered middens.....	1626
Pail closets	6
Water Closets.....	1973
Waste water closets	0

PUBLIC CLEANSING

This work is under the control of the Surveyor. Collection is carried out by the Council's motor waggon and hired motor and horse drawn vehicles. The Council's waggon is of the covered scavenging type and was purchased during the year to replace a general purpose type of waggon. Disposal of the refuse is by tipping on the uncontrolled system. The tips in use do not readily lend themselves to the adoption of the controlled system owing to the means of access.

The cost of collection and disposal was £1138.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Number and nature of Inspections made

Investigating complaints	...	...	...	...	...	53
Property under notice	...	...	...	...	...	147
Work in progress	...	...	...	...	...	149
Measuring houses for "Permitted Number of Persons"	...	...	...	...	...	25
Re-visits to overcrowded houses	...	...	...	...	...	23
Vermin infested houses	...	...	...	...	...	3
Testing old drains	...	...	...	...	...	6
Factories with power installed	...	...	...	...	...	12
Factories without power	...	...	...	...	...	6
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	6
Shops under Shops Act	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	242
Slaughter-houses inspecting meat	...	...	...	...	...	434
Meat Shops	...	...	...	...	...	8
Food preparing premises	...	...	...	...	...	41
Ice cream manufacturers and dealers premises	...	...	...	...	...	7
Taking milk samples	...	...	...	...	...	5
Taking samples of water supplies	...	...	...	...	...	53
Taking samples of swimming bath water	...	...	...	...	...	9
Disinfecting and enquiries after infectious disease	...	...	...	...	...	12
Interviews with owners	...	...	...	...	...	45
Miscellaneous visits	...	...	...	...	...	142
						<u>1430</u>

REMOVAL OF NUISANCES

NUMBER AND NATURE OF DEFECTS FOUND AT 109 PREMISES

Drains requiring reconstruction	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
" " connecting to sewer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
" " repair	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
" choked	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Sinks defective	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sink waste pipes defective	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Privy closets requiring conversion to W.C. system	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
" " " repair	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
" " " demolishing	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Insufficient closet accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Additional W.C.s required	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Ashbins required	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
W.C. seat defective	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Eaves spouts defective	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
House in dirty condition	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
House infested with bugs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Defects under Factories Act:-								
Factory with conveniences not provided with doors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Workrooms not provided with thermometers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Bakehouse requiring limewashing	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Defects under Milk & Dairies Orders:-								
Neglect to limewash cowhouses at appointed time	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Neglect in keeping cows groomed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cowsheds requiring reconstruction	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cowsheds with defective floor	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cowshed insufficiently lighted	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dairy accommodation required	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

109

Of these defects 93 were remedied and also 36 defects outstanding from previous years.

NUMBER OF NOTICES SERVED Informal 14; complied with 10.
Statutory 4; complied with 1.

SHOPS ACT, 1934

No defects relating to ventilation, temperature or sanitary accommodation were found during the year.

CAMPING SITES - There are no sites in the area used for camping purposes beyond an occasional tent for a short period and no licences have been applied for or issued under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

SMOKE ABATEMENT - No action has been necessary with respect to this matter.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS - There is one swimming bath only in the area. This is owned by the local Miners' Welfare Fund Trustees. It is a modern covered bath fitted with a chlorination and filtration apparatus operated on the continuous system. Daily tests of the bath water for the chlorine content are carried out by the superintendent in charge. Samples were taken on 9 occasions and submitted to the County Council's Laboratory. Although the free Chlorine content was below standard on three occasions, the B.coli content was "nil" in all the samples.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS - No cases of infestation were found in the Council houses. One case in a privately owned house, notified by the tenant, was dealt with by fumigation.

With respect to tenants going into Council houses, treatment of the furniture by the H.C.N. process in special removal vans is carried out by a contractor. The bedding is dealt with by steam apparatus.

SCHOOLS - All the schools are in a good sanitary condition and the Council's water supply is in all cases installed. The privy system remains at two schools but in one case the sewerage system is not suitable for the installation of the W.C. system.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power	7	0	0
Factories without mechanical power	7	0	0
Other premises under the Act	0	0	0
Total	14	0	0

	<u>Number of Defects</u>	
	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>
Sanitary conveniences defective	1	0
Bakehouse requiring limewashing	1	1
Thermometers not provided (Sec.3)	2	0
Total	4	1

Work in unwholesome premises - Instances 0.

Means of Escape in case of Fire (Section 34) -
Number of Certificates issued during the year - 6.

SECTION D - HOUSING

INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR - Inspection has been made of 52 houses and 78 visits were made for this purpose. In 51 cases defective conditions were found and the houses were classified as - Unfit, 16; Not in all respects fit, 35.

REMEDY OF DEFECTS - Twenty houses were rendered fit as a result of informal action.

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS - One Clearance Area was declared involving 5 houses which had been inspected previous to this year. Seven Demolition Orders were made also on houses which had been inspected the previous year. In two of these cases the Orders were made after breach of the owner's undertaking to carry out repairs.

Action was commenced but was suspended by the outbreak of war with respect to the consideration of Demolition Orders on 6 houses and the consideration of the making of Clearance Areas involving 11 houses.

OVERCROWDING - At the end of last year, 29 houses were overcrowded and 3 houses were added to the list this year.

Re-housing by the Council has relieved 10 cases and 8 other cases have been relieved by removals etc., leaving a total of 14 houses overcrowded at the end of this year.

SECTION E - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply - The bulk of the supply is produced within the area and generally is distributed by the producers. Generally the premises are maintained in a satisfactory condition. There is a steady progress in the improvement of the structural condition of the cowhouses and with the provision of dairies and sterilising rooms.

Licences for the production of milk under the Special Designations Order are granted by the County Council who also generally carry out the sampling of milk sold under this Order.

No licences are in force with respect to the production of "Tuberculin Tested" milk or in respect of pasteurising plants.

During the year 5 licences have been granted and 1 licence has been surrendered with respect to the production of "accredited milk". No retailers have been removed from the register in respect of proceedings under the Milk & Dairies Order. There was no instance of disease attributed to milk during the year.

Number of registered cowkeepers	97
" " "accredited Milk" producers	20
" " wholesale traders	21
" " retail milk sellers	64
" " cowsheds registered	148
" " cowsheds inspected	242
" " milch cows in area (approx.)	1100
" " Samples taken of ordinary milk;	
for Methylene Blue test,	5
for presence of Tuberculosis,	0
for sedimentation test,	0
" " Samples of Designated milk	0

MEAT SUPPLY - There is no public abattoir. There are 14 private slaughter-houses but 3 of these are very little used. Ten of these are licensed and 4 are registered. The slaughter-houses have been regularly visited during slaughtering hours - 434 visits being made for this purpose.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected	603	6	6	1330	854
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcases condemned	0	0	0	0	0
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	40	0	0	3	6
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	6.63	0	0	.22	.7
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcases condemned	4	0	0	0	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	12	0	0	0	32
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuberculosis	2.65	0	0	0	3.86

OTHER FOODS - The Food & Drugs Act, 1938, which came into operation on the 1st October 1939, provided for the registration of all premises where foodstuffs are prepared. Generally the premises were found to be in a satisfactory condition. The following premises were registered:-

Fish frying, 18; sausage, potted meat etc. manufacture, 12;
Ice cream sale and manufacturing, 5.

ADULTERATION Etc. OF FOODS - The taking of samples in respect of this matter is carried out by the County Council's Officers.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933 - Licences are in force with respect to 36 Slaughter-men. No contraventions of the Act have been found. Sheep are not included as animals to which Section 1 of the Act applies, with respect to the use of a mechanically operated stunning instrument.

PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS, 1924 - No contraventions of these regulations have been found. There is no meat marking scheme in force.

ADOPTIVE ACTS IN FORCE IN THE DISTRICT

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890 - Part 3.
Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907 - Part 2.
Public Health Act, 1925 - Part 2.
Private Street Works Act, 1892 - The whole.
